constituted by the Academic Council. Based on the recommendations of the Review Committees and the Academic Council, the Governing Council of the Institute has agreed to revert to the three years courses from the next academic session.

(c) and (d). FTII is an Institution almost fully funded by the Central Government. As such, it has also to face the general constraints of funds like any other Government organisation. However, the required grant-in-aid is being made available to the Institute for its smooth functioning.

'Palace on Wheels' Train

3011. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of 'place on wheels' trains running in the country;

(b) whether there is any proposal to introduce such a train in Karnataka;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). The following tourist trains are already in operation with public sector participation :-

(i) Palace on Wheels running in collaboration with Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation.

(ii) The Royal Orient running in collaboration with Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd.

In response to a global invitation to bid issued in May, 1994, the Ministry of Railways have awarded contracts to private sector companies for ownership, marketing and management of five tourist trains. The following trains will cover the State of Karnataka :

Circuit

1. Goa (Madgaon)-Mangalore-Mysore (Belur/ Halebid)-Hospet (Hampi)-Bangalore-Goa(Madgaon).
2. Bangalore-Mysore-Madras-Kodaikanal Road-Kanniyakumari-Trivandrum-Cochin-Mettupalayam (Ooty)-Bangalore. (2 trains)

Letters of intent have already been issued to the successful bidders.

Illegal Trade of Copper

3012. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that illegal trade of copper is freely going on specially in Delhi without proper sales documents and valid bills sold at Rs. 15,000/- to Rs. 20,000/- cheaper per tonne than the price fixed by the Hinddustan Copper Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

IST/STD/PCO in West Bengal

3013. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ISD/STD/PCO booths in operation in West Bengal, district-wise;

(b) the steps taken to provide more such booths in public places in the State; and

(c) the place selected for providing these booths in the State during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The information is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c). STD PCOs have been provided at public places. The sites for STD PCOs are not selected in advance. However, more STD PCOs at public places will be allotted by STD PCO allotment committees to eligible applicants having suitable sites.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of the District	Number of STD/ISD/PCOs
1	2	3
1.	Burdwan	549
2.	Bankura	43
3.	Purulia	20
4.	Midnapore	88
5.	24 Parganas (North)	39
6.	24 Parganas (South)	13
7.	Howrah	6
8.	Hooghly	37
9.	Murshidabad	64
10.	Birbhum	55
11.	Darjeeling	605
12.	Malda	50
13.	Dinajpur (North)	20
14.	Dinajpur (South)	8

1	2	3
15.	Naida	64
16.	Jalpaiguri	62
17.	Coochbehar	67
18.	Calcutta Telephone District	5585

Shortage of Airconditioning Staff at Tikiapara Yard

3014. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of airconditioning staff of all categories at Tikiapara Yard of Eastern Railway for a long time;

(b) whether is also a fact that staff are being forced to perform double duty continuously;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to provide more staff to this section;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However only under exceptional circumstances staff are booked to perform double duty as per extant rules.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Creation of posts is a regular process. 50 posts in different categories have been sanctioned in the month of Nov. 96 for additional AC services.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Indian Labour Conference

3015. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the representatives of Central Labour Organisations have conducted 33rd Session of Indian Labour Conference (Bhartiya Shram Sammelan) in October, 1996;

(b) If so, the details thero of and the suggestions made to the Government in this conference;

(c) whether the representtatives of Federation National Centre for Labour (N.C.L.) of unorganised sector had met him in this regard and apprised him of their problems;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action being taken by the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). The 33rd Session of the Indian Labour Conference held at New Delhi on 24-25 October, 1996. This Tripartite meeting was attended by representatives of Central Trade Union Organisations, Employers' Organisations and Central and State Governments.

The Conference, inter alia, discussed items on:-

(1) modernisation and re-organisation of employment exchanges;

(2) modernisation of vocational training system;

(3) floor level minimum wages in unorganised employment

(4) recognition of trade unions through secret ballot

(5) amendment to the I.D. Act, 1947; and

(6) the Bill on Workers' Participation in Management.

While the conclusions of the Conference are being drafted by the Committee constituted for this purpose by the Conference, broadly it was recommended that (1) a Bipartite Committee should be constituted to frame a comprehensive Industrial Relations Law and consider proposals made to amend the Industrial Disputes Act and the Trade Unions Act, 1926 on priority basis and submit its recommendation. (2) removal of disparity in the ceiling fixed for payment of gratuity for Central Government employees and industrial workers; (3) again write to the State Government to revive the practices of holding tripartite consultation at the State level if not already done; (4) a National Floor Level Minimum Wage for unorganised labour should be adopted taking into account updated poverty line basis; (5) vocational training programme of DGE&T should be reoriented towards improving the quality of vocational training and upgradation of skills; (6) Employment Exchanges should be modernised and re-organised to function as effective placement centres; and (7) Workers' Group suggested that wage ceiling fixed for payment of bonus/productivity linked bonus should be removed. However, Employers' Group urged a total review of the Bonus Act.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). The representatives of National Centre for Labour (NCL) desired to give representation to unorganised sector in the Indian Labour Conference It was clarified that representation of the Central Trade Union Organisations in the ILC is given on the basis of verified strength of various unions as done by the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central). However, two representatives of the NCL were allowed to attend the 33rd Session of Conference as observers